



DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF

HOPLOCEPHALUS.

BY WILLIAM MACLEAY, F.L.S., &c.

HOPLOCEPHALUS COLLARIS, n. sp.

Scales in 15 rows.

Abdominal Plates 147.

Anal Plate entire.

Sub-caudal Plates 46.

Total length 15 inches.

Length of head to the collar, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch.

Length of tail, 3 inches.

The general colour of the body is dark brown, becoming of a lead-colour towards, and on the sides of, the abdominal plates, and clouded yellowish-white on their middle. The head is broader than the neck, flat, and marked above with a large black patch, which extends, in front to between the eyes, behind for two or three scales behind the occipital shields, and on either side to about a line with the upper margin of the eye; behind the black patch is a white collar extending over about three scales. The front, sides and under surface of the head are white, speckled with black or dark brown, with a line of larger spots along the upper labial shields, and a narrow black bar from the eye to the nasal aperture.

The snout is rounded, the anterior frontal shields are not more than half the size of the posterior, which are pentagonal, the vertical is elongate and parallel-sided, the apex narrowly and acutely pointed in the middle, the base triangular between the occipitals, the superciliaries are about the width of the vertical but shorter. There are two posterior ocular shields and one anterior, which last

with the nasal shield occupies the place of the loreal. The nasal shield is elongate, with the nostril in the middle, the third and fourth upper labial shields together bound the entire lower margin of the eye and one half of the anterior margin. The eye is of moderate size, the pupil round. The body is round, thin at the neck, gradually thickening to the middle, and becoming very fine at the tail, which terminates in an acute point.

I have never seen but the one specimen of this snake, which was captured a few weeks ago near Bega by Mr. Charles Anderson, and sent by him to Mr. Masters the Curator of the Macleay-Museum. It is quite distinct from all the other described species of *Hoplocephalus*, a genus now numbering 24 well-marked species.